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KEEPING SLUGS OUT
OF A FRAME GARDEN

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A 3-inch ribbon of hydrated lime around the frame garden, coldframe, or mushroom bed, keeps garden slugs away from tender young plants, says _____, The slug is a mollusk like the snail, but without a shell. When it encounters a powdered-lime barrier it soon exhausts itself secreting large amounts of protective slime. Then it shrivels up and dies.

The lime is spread completely around and just inside the seedbed. It should be 3 inches wide and half an inch deep. The time to spread the lime is late in the afternoon, and only in dry weather. If the lime once gets damp, it becomes caked and useless. So the barrier has to be renewed after every rain.

In greenhouses where slugs have become a pest to potted plants and seedling beds, entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture suggest using borders of the powdered lime around individual pots and beds. But they warn that slugs often hide in flowerpots, so each pot needs to be carefully examined before the line of lime is placed around it. Many gardeners visit their greenhouses after dark with a flashlight or lantern to catch and destroy slugs as they come out to feed at night.

There is a new chemical which is poisonous to slugs, called metaldehyde. Unfortunately most of the supplies of this chemical come from Europe and cannot be easily obtained in this country. When available, one part metaldehyde mixed with 50 parts of wheat bran, scattered around the seedbed or left in small piles, proves very effective against the spotted garden slug. A few firms sell the mixture ready for use.

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